Crisis in the Silk Industry of Assam

3844. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Assam is traditionally rich and famous in silk industry;

(b) whether Government are also aware that of late this industry is facing untold hardship for want of raw material and are likely to be closed down; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to streamline this traditional industry of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The overall production of raw silk in the State of Assam has increased from a level of 422 metric tonnes in the year 1990-91 to 469 metric tonnes in 1992-93 and there have been no complaints about its shortage in the State.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government, the Central Silk Board has established a network of its units for extending the necessary research, extension, infrastructural and training support for development of sericulture industry in the State. Besides, the CSB is also implementing a pilot sericulture project in the State under the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project.

Closure of Powerloom Units

3845. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 13 lakh powerloom units in the country about 75-80 of these units are facing closure;

(b) if so, the break-up of such units, state-wise, and also the workers likely to be adversely affected as a result of the closure;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have come out with a plan to revive these units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) It is not correct that 75-80 percent of powerloom units are facing closure.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

CAG's Report on Financial Powers of Central Silk Board

3846. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, in its report No. 15 of 1993 (for the year ending 1992), has made any comments on the financial powers of the Central Silk Board and its Senior Executive Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) In his report, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has observed that while there has been a steady increase in the annual expenditure of the Central Silk Board over the years, the financial powers of the Board and its Chief Executive have not been revised.

The obove observation has been taken note for suitably enhancing the financial powers of the Central Silk Board and its senior officers.

वस्त्रों पर आधारित हस्तशिल्प

3847. श्री विलीप सिंह जूदेव : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हस्तशिल्प निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद विदेशों को और विशेष रूप से जापान को वस्त्र आधारित हस्तशिल्प के निर्यात में उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि करने में सक्षम रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1992-93 और 1993-94 के दौरान परिषद द्वारा प्राप्त किये गये निर्यात आर्डरों का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश के हस्तशिल्प कारीगरों द्वारा तैयार किये गए कुल कितने माल का निर्यात किया ; और